

**REMARKS**

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the rubber component consisting of components (A) and (B). Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 5, 6 and 10-14 are pending.

**Claim Rejections under § 103**

Claims 1, 5, 6 and 10-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP 59-196338 to Ueda and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,913,652 to Imamura and U.S. Patent No. 4,192,366 to Schriver. Applicants respectfully traverse.

According to the present invention, the rubber component consists of natural rubber and cis-1,4-polyisoprene, only.

Ueda discloses a rubber composition wherein a rubber component comprises 20-90% by weight of polybutadiene rubber (I), 60-5% by weight of polyisoprene rubber (II) and 60-5% by weight of styrene-butadiene copolymer rubber (III). Moreover, Ueda disclose that when the content of the polybutadiene rubber (I) is less than 20% by weight, the object of the Ueda's invention cannot be accomplished. See, page 4, upper left column, lines 10-12. Further, Ueda disclose that when the content of the styrene-butadiene copolymer rubber (III) is less than 5% by weight, the wet skid resistance is deteriorated. See, page 4, upper right column, lines 18-20. In other words, the rubber component of Ueda must contain components (I), (II) and (III).

Imamura and Schriver fail to make up for the deficiency of Ueda, discussed above.

Thus, Ueda, Imamura and Schriver fail to render obvious the present claims.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

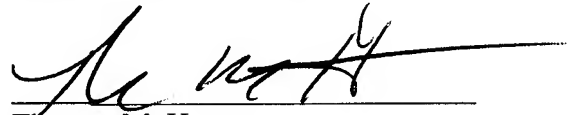
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)  
U.S. Application No.: 10/562,947

Attorney Docket No.: Q92273

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas M. Hunter', is written over a horizontal line.

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